18. (Six Times Amended) A control method of controlling a communication apparatus adapted to execute a plurality of types of communication protocols for image communication, said method comprising:

a reception step, of receiving ID information of a calling station before a start of communication of a protocol signal relating to the image communication, on the occasion of reception of a call; and

a control step, of conducting communication based on an image communication protocol corresponding to the ID information received in said reception step, or conducting communication to determine a communication protocol to be used, according to whether or not the ID information is received in said reception step, after having made a response to the call.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 4, 2002. Claims 1-6 and 11-18 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 6, 11, 13 and 16-18 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as their invention. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 18 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-6 and 11-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 5,661,568 (Ueno) in view of U.S. Patent 5,303,066 (Kawaguchi).

The present invention is directed to a solution of problems that occur due to the existence in the world of facsimile machines which conform to different facsimile protocols. For example, the G II, G III and G IV protocols are well known, and it is necessary that an appropriate protocol be used. For example, a machine that can operate in either the G II or the G

III mode cannot communicate with a machine that is t5rying to use the G IV protocol. Again, while the latter machine is likely to be able to use either of the two mentioned earlier protocols, it must determine which of the protocols it should use in communicating with a particular communication partner.

As discussed in the specification, one prior-art approach to ameliorating this problem, has been to store, in a facsimile machine, information identifying a protocol that can be used with a particular communication partner, and to store this information in combination with or association with the telephone number of that partner. When a call is to be made, the calling machine can look up the appropriate protocol, and use it.

The aspects of the present invention to which the independent claims are respectively directed, however, relate to a different approach to solving the mentioned problems. According to each of the present independent claims, when a call is received, the receiving machine obtains an identification (ID information) of the calling station, and using this detected information, accesses related protocol information stored in the called machine. That is, contrary to the prior-art approach described in the specification, the independent claims each define an arrangement in which the called machine stores and looks up an appropriate protocol, based on the detected ID of the calling station.

For example, independent Claim 1 is directed to a communication apparatus adapted to execute a plurality of kinds of facsimile protocols, and that apparatus comprises a detector circuit adapted to detect ID information for a calling station before a start of communication with the calling station, on the occasion of reception of a call. The apparatus also has a memory adapted to store a facsimile protocol in association with the ID information of the calling station, and a control circuit that is adapted to start a facsimile protocol stored in the

memory corresponding to the ID information detected by the detector circuit. The control circuit also is adapted to start a facsimile protocol to determine a facsimile protocol to be used, according to whether or not a facsimile protocol corresponding to the ID information detected by the detector circuit is stored in the memory, after having made a response to the call.

Thus, one important feature of an apparatus constructed according to independent Claim 1 is that a facsimile protocol is stored in association with ID information of another (the calling) station, and on the occasion of reception of a call from that other station, ID information of the calling station is detected by the recited detector circuit before the start of communication with the calling station. Then, according to whether or not a facsimile protocol corresponding to the detected ID information is stored, a facsimile protocol stored corresponding to the detected ID information is used, or a facsimile protocol to determine a facsimile protocol to be used is stored after having made a response to the call.

Both *Ueno* and *Kawaguchi* relate to approaches similar in these respects to the prior-art approach described in the specification of the present application, in that both store information identifying what protocol is available in another machine, corresponding to the other machine's telephone number, available in a called station are stored in a calling station, and a protocol corresponding to a telephone number designated at calling (that is, at the calling side) is used to start communication. That is, both *Ueno* and *Kawaguchi* relate to selection of protocol at the calling side. Applicant submits that nothing in either patent would teach or suggest any arrangement relating to a procedure at the called side for selecting a protocol, and neither is believed to teach or suggest any construction that would be capable or performing such a procedure, as recited in Claim 1. For at least that reason, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over both patents, taken separately or in any possible combination (assuming that such combination would be permissible).

Independent Claim 11 is directed to a communication apparatus adapted to execute a plurality of types of communication protocols for image communication, which apparatus comprises a receiver circuit adapted to receive ID information of a calling station before a start of communication of a protocol signal relating to image communication, on the occasion of reception of a call, and a control circuit adapted to conduct communication based on an image communication protocol corresponding to the ID information received by the receiver circuit, or to conduct communication to determine an image communication protocol to be used, according to whether or not the ID information is received by the receiver circuit, after having made a response to the call.

Thus, an important feature of an apparatus according to Claim 11, is that ID information of a calling station is received before a start of protocol signal relating to image communication on occasion of exception of a call, and communication based on an image communication protocol corresponding to received ID information or communication to determine an image communication protocol to be used is conducted according to whether or not the ID information is received after having responded to the call.

Claim 11 also is believed to be clearly allowable over *Ueno* and *Kawaguchi*, taken separately or in any permissible combination.

Independent Claims 6 and 18 are method claims respectively corresponding to apparatus Claims 1 and 11, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with the latter claims.

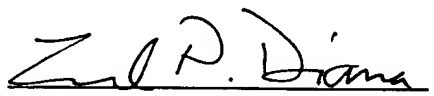
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 29,286

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Ten Times Amended) A communication apparatus adapted to execute a plurality of kinds of facsimile protocols, said apparatus comprising:

a detector circuit adapted to detect ID information for [identifying a communication apparatus at] a calling station before a start of communication with the [communication apparatus at the] calling station, on the occasion of reception of a call;

a memory adapted to store a facsimile protocol in association with the ID information of the [communication apparatus at the] calling station; and

a control circuit adapted to start a facsimile protocol stored in said memory corresponding to the ID information detected by said detector circuit, or to start a facsimile protocol to determine a facsimile protocol to be used, according to whether or not a facsimile protocol corresponding to the ID information detected by said detector circuit is stored in said memory, after having made a response to the call.

2. (Five Times Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a registration circuit adapted to register the ID information of the [communication apparatus at the] calling station and the facsimile protocol in said memory in accordance with the executed facsimile protocol.

3. (Five Times Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 2,

wherein the ID information for identifying the [communication apparatus at the] calling station is telephone number information, and [said registration circuit stores the facsimile protocol in said memory, when calling is selected for the telephone number information, such that the facsimile protocol at the calling station is stored in said memory in association with the telephone number information sent between call signals] when telephone number information designated on the occasion of issuing a call is registered in said registration circuit, the facsimile protocol executed corresponding to the telephone number information is registered.

6. (Nine Times Amended) A communication method adapted to execute a plurality of kinds of facsimile protocols, said method comprising:

a detection step, of detecting ID information [for identifying a communication apparatus at] of a calling station before a start of communication with the [apparatus at the] calling station, on the occasion of reception of a call;

a memory step, of storing in a memory a facsimile protocol [at the calling station] in association with the ID information of the [communication apparatus at the] calling station; and

a control step of starting a facsimile protocol, stored in the memory, corresponding to the ID information detected in said detection step or of starting a facsimile protocol to determine a facsimile protocol to be used, according to whether or not a facsimile protocol corresponding to the ID information detected in said detection step is stored in the memory, after having made a response to the call.

11. (Six Times Amended) A communication apparatus adapted to execute a plurality of types of communication protocols for image communication, said apparatus comprising:

a receiver circuit adapted to receive ID information [for identifying a communication apparatus at] of a calling station before a start of communication of a protocol signal relating to image communication, on the occasion of reception of a call; and

a control circuit adapted to conduct communication based on an image communication protocol corresponding to the ID information received by said receiver circuit, or to conduct communication to determine an image communication protocol to be used, according to whether or not the ID information is received by said receiver circuit, after having made a response to the call.

13. (Five Times Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 11, further comprising a memory for storing, in association with each of a plurality of bodies of registered ID information respectively identifying one of a plurality of [communication apparatuses at] the calling stations, a communication protocol that the respective [communication apparatuses at the] calling station can utilize, wherein said control circuit selects at least one communication protocol based on the ID information received by said receiver circuit and the registered ID information stored in said memory.

16. (Thrice Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 14, further comprising a count circuit adapted to count a number of communications performed [by said communication apparatus] to each [communication apparatus] at the calling station corresponding to the respective registered ID information stored in said memory, wherein said updating circuit updates the respective communication protocol for each [communication apparatus] calling station when said count circuit has counted a predetermined number of communications for [that communication apparatus at] the calling station.

17. (Thrice Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the ID information received by said receiver circuit is a telephone number of the [communication apparatus at the] calling station.

18. (Six Times Amended) A control method of controlling a communication apparatus adapted to execute a plurality of types of communication protocols for image communication, said method comprising:

a reception step, of [a receiver circuit] receiving ID information [for identifying a communication apparatus at] of a calling station before a start of communication of a protocol signal relating to the image communication, on the occasion of reception of a call; and

a control step, of conducting communication based on an image communication protocol corresponding to the ID information received in said reception step, or conducting communication to determine a communication protocol to be used, according to

whether or not the ID information is received in said reception step, after having made a response to the call.